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## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING July 6, 2018

**Supervisors Present:** Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman  
David Cain  
William Caster  
Richard Shovelin

**Absentees:** LeRoy Candelaria  
Larry Gomez  
Dan Williams

**Others Present:** Dierdre Tarr, District Manager  
Jim Groom, Associate Supervisor, CPSWCD  
April Luna, NRCS  
Katheryn Taylor, volunteer, CLPSWCD

### CALL TO ORDER:

The Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District (CPSWCD) regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order by Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman, at the Natural Resource Conservation Center Conference Room located at 1206 South HWY 55 in Mountainair, NM at 8:00 a.m.

### Welcome Attendees:

The chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for taking the time to attend. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

### Public Discussion on the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Program:

The district manager reviewed the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2020 – 2024 and pointed out some changes. She said that she learned in working with Senator Liz Stefanics, that money for the shop building will have to be reauthorized. She will work with Senator Stefanics and Jonas Armstrong from the Legislative Council Service to make sure that everything is written up correctly so that no problems will interfere with spending the money. Thus, a change was made to the request for funds for the Maintenance Building (shop building), which is priority 1, from \$20,000 to \$85,000 for 2020. Funding for a four-wheel drive vehicle and for a storage unit was discussed. The request for a storage unit was moved from priority 10 to priority 2.

### Appointed Supervisor Oath of Office:

Chairman Lovato administered the oath of office to Mr. Shovelin.

### APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the agenda. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of the regular meeting from June 1, 2018 were reviewed. **ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the minutes as amended. David Cain seconded the motion. Motion carried

unanimously. Add "SunZia Transmission Line" to the end of the sentence under agenda item OTHER on page 7.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:**

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of June, 2018 with accounts payable for July, 2018.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to accept the report for June 2018 and pay the accounts payable for July, 2018. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

##### **Review of FY2018 Fourth Quarter Report:**

The district manager reviewed the general fund and grant revenues and expenditures in the Fourth Quarter Report. She reported that the largest expenditure was for personnel services. Only four line items were over budget for a small amount.

##### **Audit Contract:**

The district manager stated that the auditor will be in the district office the week of August 23. Next year's audit will be the third and final year of the contract, and then the district manager will have to go out for bids the next year for a new three-year contract that includes a single fed audit.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **New Mexico Department of Agriculture:**

Jim Wanstall's written report is included in the board packets. The district manager explained that the district is not bound by the DFA budget reporting requirement mentioned in item 2, DFA Budget Requirement Update.

##### **Field Office Report:**

The NRCS Field Office written report is included in board members' packets. April Luna elaborated on the report. She said that 26 applications were turned in for EQIP 2018 She has signed 12 contracts and is waiting for one more; she explained how they were funded. These contracts will increase RCCP funded contracts to 32. There are 34 active CSP contracts. She reported on the number of applications. April has also been busy doing checkouts.

The district manager said that Kenneth Lujan asked her to thank the board for allowing her to submit the RCPP grant applications. The majority of the funds have gone to the Claunch-Pinto District to fund EQIP projects. These funds will allow Kenneth to fund projects at the other team offices from money that comes to the team through other funding allocations for the EQIP program.

##### **District Manager's Report:**

The district manager's written report is included in the board member's packets. She said that she turned in the point system worksheet for distribution of funds to SWCDs FY 2018.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

The "Edgewood SWCD Newsletter" and the "Noticias de las Acequias" were included in board members' packets. The district manager distributed newspaper articles on SunZia and Western Spirit transmission lines; information on RETA; eminent domain and Pattern Energy wind farms near the Village of Corona.

#### **UPDATE ON GRANTS:**

The district manager's report on grants listed below includes meetings attended, progress on projects, status of proposals to funding agencies, and RFPs issued by funding agencies.

##### **Estancia Basin Watershed Health and Restoration Monitoring (EBWHRM) Project – Water Trust Board (WTB) and State Forestry Grants (NFL,) and Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance (GRGWA)**

##### **Watershed Health Grant – Water Trust Board:**

The district manager will turn in some reimbursement requests, and then the Estancia Basin and the Greater Rio Grande grants for 2016 will be closed out by the end of August.

The new Estancia Basin grant for \$600,000 was approved by the WTB and the Board of Directors for the Department of Finance. Some readiness items will be prepared next week; the paperwork for the grant will move forward.

**New Mexico State Forestry Grant:**

The district manager is contracting for the 2017 funds of \$265,000. There are four active contracts in the Corona area. Vern Kohler is working on a practice plan for another project in that area. The district manager asked that she be notified when work can re-commence in Deer Canyon Preserve. She expects six to eight projects to be carried out there.

One project should take place in the Red Bluffs area.

Because this is funding from State Forestry, no mastication can take place, only sawing and chipping. Another \$265,000 has been approved by State Forestry for 2018, but the paperwork on those funds hasn't been started yet.

**Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance aka Upper Rio Grande Salt Cedar Project:**

This project was not approved for funding by the WTB, but perhaps it will be approved next year.

**Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP):**

**Romero Wood LLC CFRP:**

The district manager said that with the forest re-opening, she hopes that the Romero CFRP can be finished. Vern Kohler will meet with Pablo Romero on Monday, and the district crew will start limbing on Tuesday. Fifty acres remain to be completed.

**Capilla Peak CFRP:**

The district manager said that this project is on schedule to be finished by August 31. The work includes tree surveys, cultural resource surveys, bird surveys etc. Then the Forest Service can complete their work for a categorical exclusion, which means they don't have to do a full-blown Environmental Impact Study (EIS). This project will be ready to allow application for implementation money in January to work on about 4500 acres.

**Corona CFRP:**

The Corona CFRP is a three-year NEPA project and is in the second year. Now that the Forest Service has re-opened the forest, SWCA will begin work to finish year two. After the third year, the district manager can apply for implementation funding.

**Chupadera CFRP:**

The district manager said that this project is behind. The first year survey work has been done. She has finally received maps from the State Land Office. She wants to ensure that no double dipping is taking place.

**Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):**

The district manager said there is still \$120,000 in 2015 funding, but NRCS is planning to send it back to the Washington DC office. She and Kenneth Lujan will meet to see if they can get permission to use the money. She explained the workings of the RCPP contract.

NRCS has apparently contracted for all of the 2017 funds except for approximately \$23,000.

The district manager explained what the money can be used for.

She said that she hasn't seen the contract for the 2018 funding yet.

**New Mexico State Park Project:**

The district manager said that the state park has been closed due to fire danger.

**FEMA Grant Proposal:**

The district manager has begun work on the FEMA project.

**BNSF Railway Project:**

This remediation project was approved by the Greater Rio Grande Alliance and will involve grass planting in a railroad double tracking construction area west of Belen. The district will probably be involved in monitoring the area and reporting on it for two or three years. The proposal submitted to BNSF is for \$85,000. Claunch-Pinto became involved because of its partnership with the railroad in the Abó watershed. The district manager explained what work needs to be done.

The chairman praised the district manager for her tenacious work ethic and attributed this new project to her hard work. He thanked her on behalf of the board for getting these grants.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **Capital Outlay, Shop Building:**

The district manager reported on the capital outlay during the public discussion.

### **Cibola National Forest – Forest Plan Revision Resource Assessment Wilderness Inventory:**

The district manager said that the Forest Service is going to do a soft release by publishing a draft of the forest plan revision on its website the first part of September so that the Landscape Teams as well as non-governmental entities can review it. The published draft will probably be put out after the first of the year.

There is a new forest supervisor, Steve Hattenbach. The district manager described his background.

### **Americorp/Vista Program:**

The district manager said that Caliope Janulis, from New Jersey, has been selected for the position. She will report for work on August 27. The district has to find a place to live for her. She will be here for a year.

### **Beautification – Partnership with the town of Mountainair – Elm Trees in Town Right of Ways:**

The district manager said that the district and the town have made a plan. The town will cut down the elm trees, and the district employees will paint the stumps. The town wants to spray elm trees behind the municipal offices, but the spray could affect the neighboring Manzano Mountain Arts Center.

### **Lincoln, Torrance and Socorro Transmission Line SunZia Transmission Line:**

The district manager said that she attended the Public Regulation Commission (PRC) meeting for four days. She has talked with BLM this week and found out that it is going to receive four million dollars to do any necessary reclamation over each section of BLM land which the transmission line crosses. She will be meeting with SunZia representatives on Thursday, and the district's lawyer in Dominici's office gave her a list of items that she needs to discuss with them, including funding. Discussion followed on work that will need to be done on both public and private land.

### **Torrance and Lincoln County Wind Energy, Corona Wind Companies:**

The district manager distributed to the board her direct testimony to the PRC on the Corona wind companies. The attorney filed this testimony with the PRC. She filed as an intervener because Pattern Energy never provided the necessary information, such as their remediation plan, to the district. She will attend the PRC meeting on July 25 when the wind companies are on the agenda.

### **Western Spirit Transmission Line:**

The district manager explained that Western Spirit is a partner with Renewable Energy Transmission Authority (RETA), authorized during the Richardson administration. She can provide information on how the agency operates. Western Spirit hasn't yet provided required documents to the district manager. She listed some of the information that is needed.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Reorganization of the Board:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to maintain the current organization of the board.

William Caster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution No. 01 – 2019 – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter DFA Report: ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter DFA Report. William Caster seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote: David Cain – aye; Richard Shovelin – aye; William Caster – aye; Felipe Lovato – aye.

### **Resolution No. 02 – 2019 – Inter-budgetary Transfers:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 02 – 2019 – Inter-budgetary Transfers, substituting the word “regular” for “special” in the first WHEREAS. William Caster seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous by voice vote: David Cain – aye; Richard Shovelin – aye; William Caster – aye; Felipe Lovato – aye.

### **Resolution No. 03 – 2019 – FY2020 – 2024 – Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan:**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Richard Shovelin moved to approve Resolution No. 03 – 2019 – FY 2020 – 2024 with changes made during the public meeting. David Cain seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote: David Cain – aye; Richard Shovelin – aye; William Caster – aye; Felipe Lovato – aye.

## **REPORTS:**

### **New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts (NMCCD):**

Clauncho-Pinto SWCD

July 6, 2018

Regular Meeting

The NMCCD received \$75,000 from the Healy Foundation.

**South Central Mountain RC&D:**

A representative is beginning to attend the Forest Plan Revision Collaborative meetings.

**EBWPC:**

The district manager was unable to attend a meeting of the Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee due to a conflict. Discussion followed on reasons that the work of the committee could be important to the district. Another meeting will be held in August.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR INPUT:**

**OTHER:**

The district manager said that a meeting of the Soil and Water Conservation Society will be held at the end of July. On the first of August, a tour will be conducted in this area. In Chilili, there will be a presentation on the Dog Head Fire. At lunch at the Apple Mountain Camp, restoration efforts on the Trigo Fire will be discussed. Then, the participants will see the work that was done in Ox Canyon after the Ojo Peak fire. The tour will end at the Quarai ruins. The district manager will attend a workshop on the restoration done following the installation of the cyber optic cable along Highway 60.

The district manager has some information from the New Mexico Fire Council on burn plans. She will review it and put it on the next board agenda.

Mr. Shovelin raised his concern that other SWCDs need to be made aware of their possible roles with the energy companies.

**MEETINGS ATTENDED:**

**PLAN for NEXT MEETING:**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:**

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, August 3, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at the Natural Resource Conservation Center, 1206 South Highway 55 in Mountainair, NM.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the board, the regular meeting of the Claunch-Pinto Board: **ACTION TAKEN:** William Caster moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:20. David Cain seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

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RICHARD J. SHOVELIN, SEC. – TREAS.